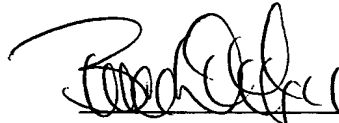


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please enter this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application. In this amendment, applicant requests addition of a paragraph beginning on page 1, immediately after the Title, to reflect a claim of benefit priority to the parent application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Applicant also cancels claims 1-17, and amends claims 18, 21, 23, 26, 30 and 38.

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 18-38 are in condition for allowance, and requests prompt consideration and early notice of allowance.

Date: FEB 24, 2004



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